



March 7, 2002

Mr. William F. Caton, Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W., TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Caton:

Re: *Ex Parte* Notice
MAG Plan for regulation of Interstate Services of Non-Price Cap Incumbent
Local Exchange Carriers and Interexchange Carriers, CC Docket 00-256

Dear Mr. Caton:

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 (b) of the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, enclosed for filing is the written *ex parte* presentation to Dorothy Attwood, Chief of the Common Carrier Bureau on Thursday, March 7, 2002 concerning the above-captioned proceeding. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please communicate with the undersigned.

Sincerely,

/s/ L. Marie Guillory
L. Marie Guillory
Vice President
Legal & Industry

LMG:rhb
Attachments

cc: Dorothy Attwood, FCC
Carol Matthey, FCC



March 7, 2002

Ms. Dorothy Attwood, Chief
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: MAG Plan for regulation of Interstate Services of Non-Price Cap Incumbent Local
Exchange Carriers and Interexchange Carriers, CC Docket 00-256

Dear Ms. Attwood:

The National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) is a non-profit corporation established in 1954 that represents 545 rate-of-return regulated rural telecommunications companies. NTCA members are full service telecommunications carriers providing local, wireless, cable, Internet, satellite and long distance services to their communities. All NTCA members are small carriers that are defined as "rural telephone companies" in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Act). They are dedicated to providing competitive modern telecommunications services and ensuring the economic future of their rural communities.

NTCA is concerned that the Universal Service Administration Company's (USAC's) proposal to send an extensive data request to rate of return carriers will impose an unnecessary burden on these carriers. We believe that the Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS) mechanism can be implemented by using data already available to USAC or from the National Exchange Carrier Association in connection with its administration of the Interstate Access Common Line Tariff. It is also our opinion that the order in the above proceeding does not contemplate the extensive data collection that is being proposed by USAC.

We have urged USAC to reconsider the proposed measures. The NTCA letter to USAC is attached for your consideration as well.

Sincerely,

/s/ L. Marie Guillory
L. Marie Guillory
Vice President
Legal & Industry

LMG:rhb
Attachment

cc: Carol Matthey, FCC



March 5, 2002

Ms. Cheryl Parrino, President
Universal Service Administrative Company
2120 L Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20037

RE: Data Request – Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS)

Dear Ms. Parrino:

I am writing to request that USAC simplify the ICLS data requests it proposes to send to rate of return carriers.

NTCA believes that the requests do not comply with the Federal Communications Commission's analysis of the burdens associated with ROR carriers filing requirements. In its Regulatory Flexibility Act Analysis, the Commission stated that its Order requires carriers to file "the minimum amount of information necessary for the proper functioning of the [ICLS] mechanism."¹ In our view, the multiple and complicated forms that will be sent to ROR carriers collect more than the minimum amount of information needed for proper functioning of the ICLS mechanism.

The proposed data requests will require ROR carriers to duplicate reports that are readily available to USAC. The Commission contemplated that carriers in the common line pools would not have to duplicate data needed to calculate the ICLS because they already file projected common line revenue requirements and true-ups in connection with the NECA access tariff.² ROR carriers also already file under Part 36, actual cost data in connection with administration of high-cost loop support. The Order notes that the embedded cost data that will be filed under Part 69 is in a different form, though similar to the Part 36 data already filed with USAC. Despite this, it is not apparent that actual cost data cannot be derived or obtained in a form that is less burdensome than the proposed True-Up form.

¹ *In the Matter of the Multi-Group (MAG) Plan for regulation of Interstate Services of Non-Price Cap Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and Interexchange Carriers*, CC Docket 00-256, FCC 01-304, (rel. November 8, 2001) at para. 321.

² *Id.* 166-167.

Ms. Cheryl Parrino, President
March 5, 2002
Page Two

Unnecessary reporting requirements impose additional costs on small businesses and utilize resources that can be better put to providing service. These costs ultimately harm the consumer by directing resources away from efficient services. I urge you to abandon proposed data collection efforts that duplicate information that can be readily obtained from existing USAC sources or from NECA in connection with its administration of the carrier common line pool.

Sincerely,

/s/ L. Marie Guillory
L. Marie Guillory
Vice President
Legal and Industry

LMG:rhb